

REMARKS

Claim Rejections 35 USC 112:

Claims 23, 26 and 29 were objected to as being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim what applicant regarded as the invention. Specifically the language which stated "the first coupling component is configured so as to facilitate a flow of ink therethrough when the reservoir is formed so as to have a base which is substantially flat when ink enters the reservoir" appeared unclear.

Claims 21, 23, 24 and 29 have been amended to address this ambiguity in these claims. As now revised and interpreted with amended claims 21, 24 and 27 it should now be apparent that the present invention involves a system that relies on a gravity feed of ink with the reservoir formed under the container that is connected to the reservoir by the duplex coupler.

Claim Rejections 35 USC 102:

Claims 21 to 29 were rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by Pawlowski et al., US patent 5,852,459.

Applicants note that significant differences exist between Pawlowski and Applicants invention. In fact the structure and function of both is so different that it would be impossible to combine Applicants invention and Pawlowski without destroying the purpose of both.

Pawlowski relies on control of pressure at the print cartridge with optional pressure at the ink supply. In Pawlowski "A pressure regulator internal to the print cartridge regulates the flow of ink from the external ink supply to the print cartridge." (See abstract and specification.) Pawlowski describes a push pull system. Wherein the pressure regulator at the print cartridge draws ink in from the ink supply. If the ink supply is located to far below the print cartridge pressure in the ink supply is needed to push ink into the print cartridge in tandem with the pressure regulator in the print cartridge. In the pressurized ink supply version ink is contained in a collapsible plastic bag. References are in specification including but not limited to column 14 lines 17 to 60; column 15 lines 15 to 45; column 19 lines 16 to 29; column 24 lines 14 to 33; and column 25 to line 66 to column 26 line 24.

On the other hand Applicant invention relies on a gravity feed from the container 17 through the duplex coupler 20 to reservoir 11, then out through a port 80 to line 12 with a pump 13 that directs the ink to the print heads (see Figs. 1, 2A and 4A). Additionally, in a preferred embodiment the bottom of Applicants reservoir 11 although substantially flat has a pitch (see Figs. 2A and 4A) to urge the ink towards port 80 out line 12 to pump 13. Applicants have accordingly amended claims 21, 23, 24, 26, 27 and 29 as well as adding new dependent claims 30, to 40 to reflect these and other aspects of the invention.


CONCLUSION

Claims 21 to 32 are now pending in this application. Claims 21, 23, 24 and 27 have been amended and new claims 30 to 40 have been added to further define features of the invention. Accordingly, based on the above arguments and

amendments Applicants now believe the claims are allowable and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims now pending.

Respectfully submitted,

May 27, 2004



Randall L. Reed, Esq.

Reg. # 31,559

Levin and O'Connor

384 Forest Ave., Suite 13

Laguna Beach, California 92651

Phone (949) 497-7676; Fax (949) 497-7679